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(54) Title: **HANDLE AND TOP HANDLE REINFORCEMENT FOR A PAPERBOARD CARTON**

(57) Abstract: A fully enclosed carton for carrying heavy loads with a reinforcement insert for the handle apertures located in the top end flaps of the carton. The paperboard reinforcing insert may be extended as a bridge across the top panel of the carton to prevent tearing of the handle apertures in the top end flaps and also tearing in the top panel of the carton when carrying a heavy load. The carton may have one or more dispensers in the top panel which may extend into an adjoining side panel. Multiple tear lines may be formed for the dispenser flap in the insert that extends across the top panel to permit easy access to the containers, such as bottles, in the carton. The paperboard reinforcing insert may have a larger aperture than the handle aperture in each top end flap to adjust for any imprecision in the alignment of the paperboard insert in forming the carton sleeve from the paperboard blank. When the paperboard insert extends across the top panel and one or more dispensers are formed in the top panel, multiple tear lines may be used to form the flaps in the insert to compensate for any imprecision in the insertion of the insert that extends across the top panel into the carton sleeve when it is being formed.

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